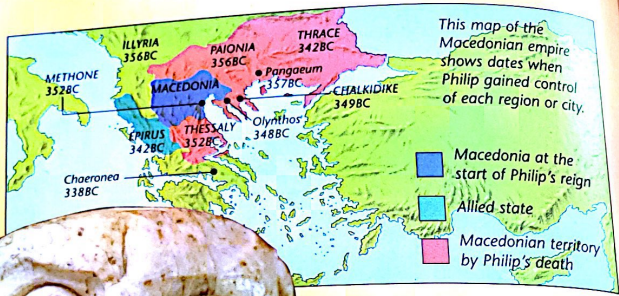


THE RISE OF MACEDONIA

The ancient kingdom of Macedonia lay in the northeast part of Greece. In Classical times, most Greeks regarded it as a culturally and politically backward place, inhabited by people who were little better than barbarians. They would scarcely have believed it would be possible that, in the 4th century BC, Macedonia would become the greatest military power of the day, posing a serious threat to Athenian democracy and independence.



Carved head of Philip II, made of ivory (elephant tusk)

ORDER OUT OF CHAOS

Macedonia had had an unstable history. It was invaded repeatedly in the 6th and 5th centuries BC, and in 399BC the country collapsed into civil war after the murder of its king. Decades of turmoil ended in 359BC, when Philip II became king and set about restoring order. Once he was firmly in control of his new kingdom, Philip began expanding his frontiers through military campaigns, taking over the regions to the east and south.

By 342BC, Philip had extended Macedonia to include all of Thrace, Chalkidike and Thessaly. Meanwhile, the other Greek states, led by Athens and Thebes, were growing very nervous of this rising power in the north. So, in 342BC, they formed the Hellenic League against Macedonia.

THE COLLAPSE OF THE CITY-STATES

In 338BC, Philip won a decisive victory against the Hellenic League at Chaeronea. This gave him control of Greece and marked the end of the city-states. He united the states into the League of Corinth, with himself as leader. To strengthen their unity, he planned an attack on the Persians.

The head (right) and butt (left) of a Macedonian spear

